This is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/895,886 filed on July 17, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,941,993, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/534,841 filed on September 27, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,889,938, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 07/859,850 filed on March 30, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,495,572.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 23 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend claims 18-20, 22, 24, and 27-29 as follows:

18. (Amended) An apparatus for storing data comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data;

wherein the controller determines a [degree of] preference to be given to the processing of reconstructing data.

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19. (Amended) An apparatus for storing data according to claim 18, wherein the controller determines the [degree of] preference based on a predetermined limit time.

20. (Amended) An apparatus for storing data according to claim 19, wherein the controller performs the processing of reconstructing data _instead of processing of data read/write requests from a host_ according to the [degree of] preference.

22. (Amended) An apparatus for storing data comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;

wherein the controller controls a ratio of an amount of the processing of reconstructing data to an amount of the processing of data read/write requests[,] _within a unit time._ [and performs a processing according to the ratio based on a predetermined limit time.]

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24. (Amended)   An apparatus for storing data comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;

wherein the controller controls [a ratio of] an amount of time for the processing of reconstructing data [to an amount of time for the processing of data read/write requests, and performs a processing according to the ratio] within a unit time based on a predetermined limit time.

27. (Amended)   An apparatus for storing data comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;

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which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;

wherein the controller performs the processing of reconstructing data instead of the processing of data read/write requests such that the processing of reconstructing data is completed within a fixed period of time.

Please add new claims 30-31 as follows:

--30.   An apparatus for storing data comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;

wherein the controller gives a preference to the processing of data read/write requests and performs the processing of reconstructing data within a remaining time.

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